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CONTACTS

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WORLD  
AIDS DAY  
1995

警告

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**I**t is something of a defeat to mark another World AIDS Day. It means that the worlds' best doctors, scientists and greatest governments have failed, for yet another year, to find a cure for the worst disease ever known to the human race.

The disease has spawned a vast gravy train for those working in the AIDS industry (finding a cure, education people, and administering to those with AIDS and HIV).

We must have properly qualified professionals in all the necessary fields so that people living with AIDS (PWA's) can get the best and most up-to-date treatment possible. And that the message that AIDS is a killer disease can be bought home to every single person on the planet.

There is a lot of talk of experts on AIDS around these days. While we know a great many people who are professionals (those getting paid to do a job of work) as opposed to amateur (those who do a job of work voluntarily) we know very few 'experts'. Those that are tend to be in the medical field, nurses, doctors and lecturers on the subject.

By allowing value judgements about who (by defining professional or amateur) is best able to do a job we run the unacceptably high risk of marking those who give of their time freely and voluntarily as somehow less able or less educated. By making such judgements we could lose a huge force.

The problem is largely compounded by the groups and individuals themselves, seeking to enhance their own importance, giving themselves or their employees (and that, after all, is exactly what they are) grandiose titles. Director of this or that. Executive something or other.

Titles are, of course, important as they (should) describe the job the person does. What's happened in Hong Kong — true to form — is that because of the title, the job has attracted more importance than it deserves. Many of the so-called 'experts' are in reality, nothing more than glorified clerks. With no more idea of the needs of PWA's than the proverbial fly on the wall.

Perhaps the next time someone, other than a paid AIDS professional gets up to talk about their fears, doubts, or anxiety, they'll be listened to with same respect and consideration as the so-called 'experts.'

# Contacts Magazine

GPO Box 13427, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2817-9447 Fax: (852) 2817-9120

## Editor

Barrie Brandon

## Design & Layout

Thomas Choi

## News & Features

Danny Wong Jason Leung

## Advertising & Subscriptions

Tony Ng

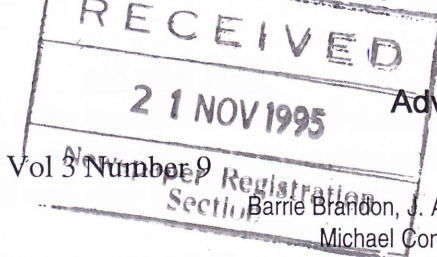
## Contributors

Barrie Brandon, J. Abramchyk, Mandy Boursicot, Danny Wong, Michael Connor, Brett White, H. Lucas Ginn, Fifi



22 JUL 1996

**Who's who?**



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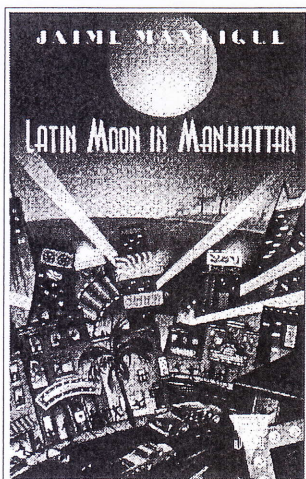
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## Front Cover: Condoms save lives

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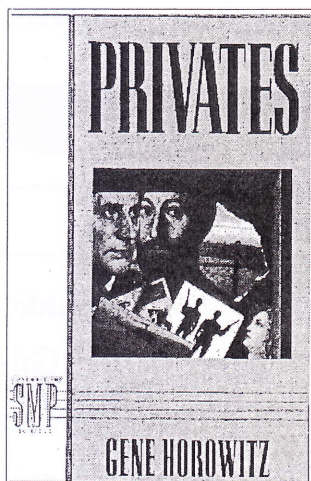
## ABOUT THE BOOKS...

### Latin Moon in Manhattan

Exploding with a profusion of plots and sub-plots involving drug smuggling, romance, and the politics of Queens.

### Just Say No

Larry Kramer (*The Normal Heart*) takes aim at America's rulers with a savage and hilarious satire, impaling our poohbahs on the shafts of their own hypocrisy.

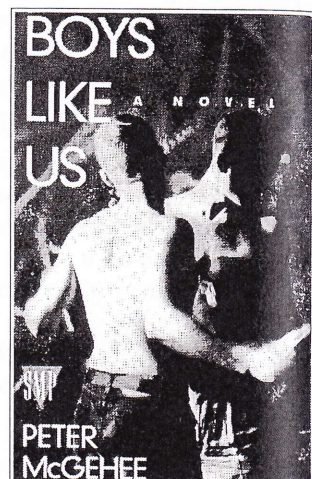


### Privates

Presents a story of two men on the eve of their fourth decade together.

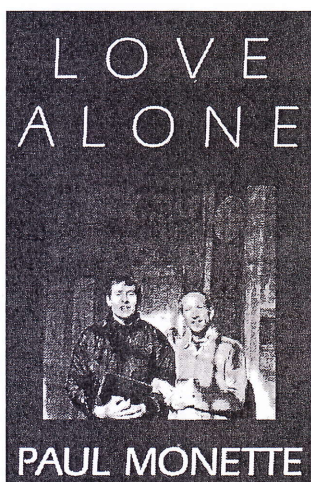
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A remarkable comedy about life, love and friendship in the age of AIDS.



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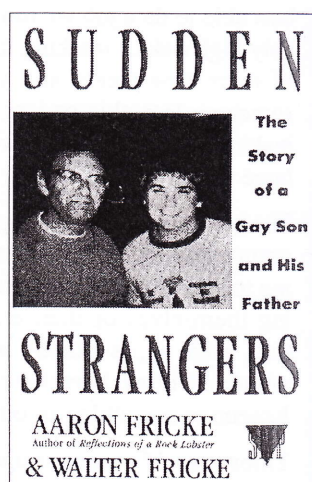


### Sudden Strangers

The story of the relationship between a father and his Gay son.

### Sacred Lips of the Bronx

Exciting, sexy, compelling and smart. A sensational novel that you won't want to put down.



### Beyond Acceptance

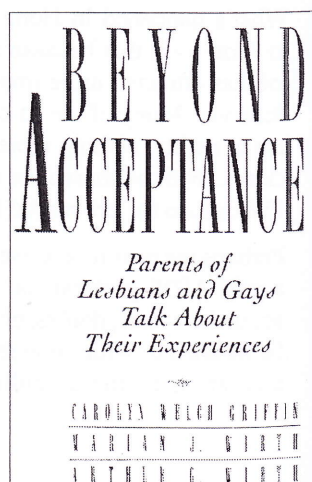
Parents of Lesbians and Gays talk about their experiences.

### Buddies

This is a book about relationships. Here are fathers and brothers and stories of men in their youth.

### Epidemic of Courage

Facing the AIDS epidemic in America.

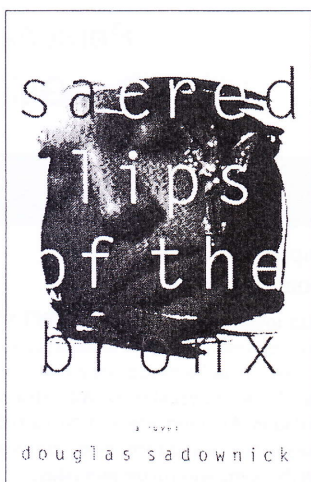


### How To Go To The Movies

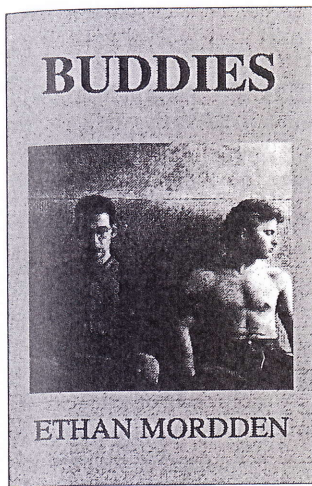
The essence of stardom, the nature of Hollywood, and the state of that town today Quentin Crisp tells all.

### Parisian Lives

The chronicle of a rising painter and his dangerous and desperate love for a wide variety of unsuitable men.

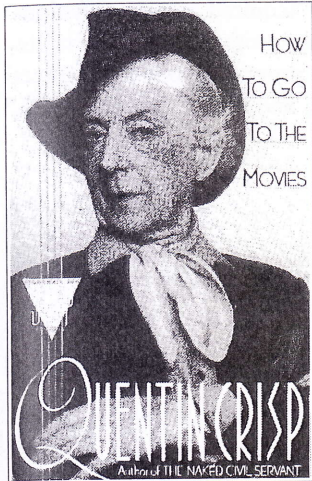
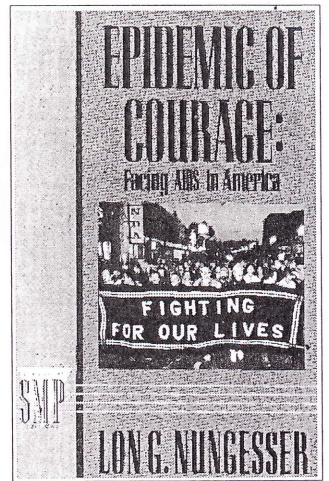






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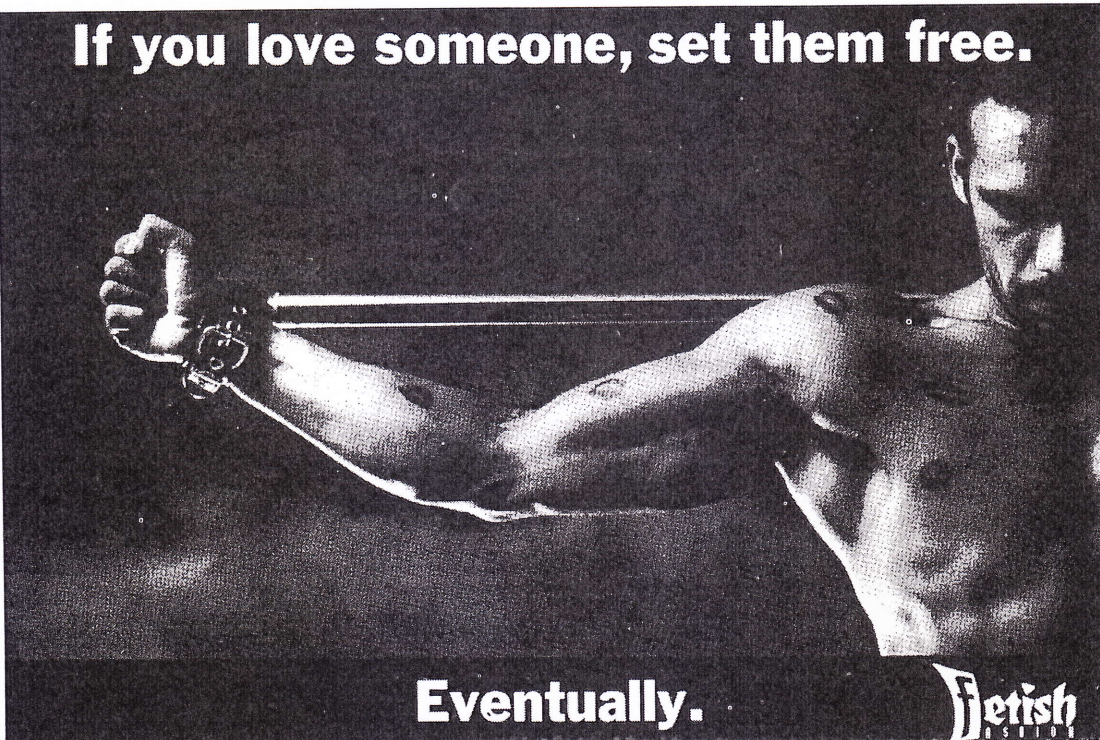


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## America

Atlantic Records, in Los Angeles, has formed a Gay Markets division that will promote the label's artists and albums within the gay community. The label, which is part of Time Warner Inc.'s music group, the largest record company in the United States, named former journalist Peter Galvin to head the division as a vice president of product development. His division will target gay record stores, bookstores, clothing retailers, hotels, resorts, restaurants and clubs as well as use several strategies like direct mail, contests and sampler and coupon give-aways.

## Australia

According to Gay and Lesbian Cable Television Australia GALACTA the new pay TV service is "poised to become the world's first television channel run by and for lesbians and gay men." The service has already acquired a 24-hour national license dedicated to lesbian and gay programming, and is now seeking "strategic alliances with program producers, cultural organisations, advertisers, and investors world-wide."

## France

The Comité Gay Paris Ile de France will organise the fifth edition of the Euro Games in June 1997. The EGLSF Board decided on this in its last board meeting while discussing the Paris bid. The coming months will be used to prepare a more detailed plan. Later contract negotiations will start with the EGLSF Board to make arrangements on sports, housing etc. At the Dutch Gay Fair in Leiden, in November, Paris Gay groups will be present at an official ceremony. The Dutch minister for Sports, Mrs Terpstra will be also present at the ceremony.

## Philippines

A lawmaker filed a bill in the Congress in September calling for Gays to be given a seat in the legislature. "Civility requires that this peculiar segment of our people be extended our understanding, not ridicule, our compassion, not harassment," Congressman Reynaldo Calalay said. The Congress has 204 elected members. In addition, the constitution allows President Fidel Ramos to appoint 25 other members representing various sectors like labour, youth, urban poor and the handicapped.

Calalay proposed a law be passed creating a sector for Gays, saying "there is a growing recognition both here and abroad of the emerging relevance of that distinct segment of society known as the 'third sex'."

## Spain

In Madrid Gay groups demanded the immediate sacking of the Chief Justice of the Basque separatist region, Jesus Cardenal, for his comments against human rights of all citizens. He wrote in the 1994 Annual Memory of the National Chief Justice, released this August, that diversity, divorce, homosexuality and abortion were corrupting the natural order of society in Spain. "We believe that the speech will be the origin of future aggression against Gay people and that he must take political responsibility for his remarks" said the Gay groups representative.

## Zimbabwe

A member of Zimbabwe's ruling party took up President Robert Mugabe's anti-gay line last month, saying homosexuals should be placed in quarantine. "Like tuberculosis patients, they should be hibernated (sic) in an isolation hospital until they are treated," member of Parliament Aeneas Chigwedere said during the debate on a motion backing Mugabe's stance. Another MP said anti-homosexual material should be taught in schools. Mugabe has attacked gays several times since his government pressured the Zimbabwe International Book Fair in August to bar a local homosexual group from participating. He has said that a Gay lifestyle is unacceptable to African societies.



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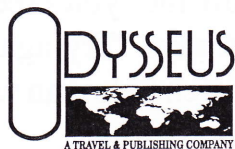
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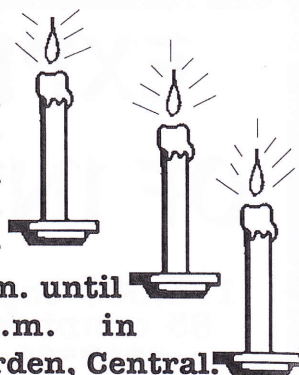


# Out about



Let's Party! This years Christmas Ball, one of the Gay community's premier attractions, takes place at the City Garden Hotel, North Point on Saturday 23rd December. Hosted as always by the 10% Club and sponsored by, among others, *Contacts Magazine*. It promises to be a fun-filled evening, with a very good Christmas menu as an added attraction. Call 2314 8726 for further details and tickets.

**AIDS Concern are holding a candle-light vigil on 1st December**



**from 7 p.m. until 10.00 p.m. in Chater Garden, Central.** There will be a dance presentation, mime, as well as a plethora of speakers including taped addresses from some Hong Kong people living with AIDS. Frankly it sounds more like a circus rather than a serious effort to commemorate those who have died, and spreading awareness of HIV within their designated target groups. (See editorial page 3)

Forget going to Dateline Cafe. After only one year they have closed and Gays are no longer welcome. Now

## Looking for a date?

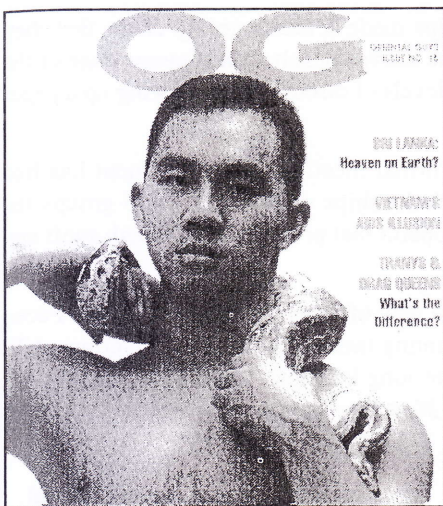
known as the Cairo Lounge the management told us "we have new management and policies, we are no longer Gay but a 'normal' Karaoke."

## Y e a h ,

Sexual equality may very well encompass such things as pursuit, coyness and submission. And we shouldn't be afraid to admit that 'no' doesn't always mean no. Throughout history most people have been able to tell the difference between the two types of no. The one that says "Get off me ,you creep", and the one that says "Try again in 15 minutes". Karen Lehrman writing in *Ming Pao Daily News*.

## S u r e





## Oriental Guys (OG)

The front cover of the latest issue caused something of a stir when it reached Singapore. Apparently the guy wearing the snake, and nothing else, is a dead ringer for a 5th year medical student. If they prove to be the same person, the student Ray Lee, faces expulsion as such a lewd (it *is* Singapore) act would violate the school's code of conduct which requires students to "uphold the good name and dignity of the school."

If you're in Central and want a reasonable place for dinner then the Camargue Restaurant's the place. Situated on the 24 floor of the Regent Centre, 88, Queen's Road, Central. Phone 2525 7997. We're not sure that it's a 100% Gay (hence no listing in the Gay Guide). It is for certain though 100% Gay friendly. The menu is decidedly European; the quality excellent. Prices aren't expensive—\$600 for two should get you a 3 course dinner with coffee (but not drinks). Reservations recommended.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Lesbian and Gay people are the last remaining group against which public displays of bigotry are respectable.

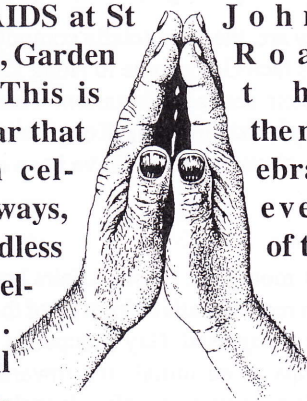
Larry Gross,  
in his book *Contested Closets*.

# POWER

CoGG Faced with the somewhat daunting task of tackling the government to enable Gay people to at last obtain their lawful rights the Gay groups, Contacts Magazine, Horizons, The Hong Kong 10% Club, Isvara, and Satsanga have formed an alliance. Known as the Coalition of Gay Groups (CoGG) the groups aim is to be proactive in ensuring anti-discrimination on behalf of every Gay person in Hong Kong. "It's not just Gay groups that can take part" said their spokesperson, "any individual Gay person who wants to get involved will be welcomed with open arms". CoGG can be contacted in the first instance on 2817 9447.

**Splash!** The Gay video, clothing and magazine shop in Wan Chai closed last month. Not that they wanted to mind, but the police insisted as they were believed to have been selling pornographic materials. The owner a 63 year old Japanese man was arrested and is expected to face criminal charges later this month.

Mass in the time of AIDS Saturday 2nd December will see a Mass in the Time of AIDS at St John's Cathedral, Garden Road, Central. This is the fourth year that has been celebrated and, as always, one regardless of their belief is welcome. There will be a reception after the service where people can meet and enjoy light refreshments.





# OUTRIGHT

**Legislation making it an offence in law for people to discriminate against someone solely on the grounds of sexual orientation, is something most thinking people would, I think, support.**

Hand in hand with any type of anti-discrimination there needs to be a lot of powerful informative education. This is where the government comes in. They have the resources and personnel to ensure that the general public, who may be unaware that during their everyday lives they come into contact with Lesbian & Gay people, understand what it is like to be living as a Gay person.

Having talked to many hundreds if not thousands of Gay people over the past few years, as editor of *Contacts Magazine* and as the founder of Horizons, it is very clear to me that the majority of Gay people do not want special rights for Gays. What they demand is no more than any other group of people in any society want: the same and equal rights.

What many Gay people can't understand is why other sectors of society find it so hard (and difficult) to accept and implement equal rights for all. After all what could be simpler or easier than equal rights for all? As a U.S Senator said what part of 'all' is it that you don't understand?

The government has at last, prompted and urged on by local Gay activists and groups backed by Anna Wu's Bill said they want to support equal rights for Gay people.

They are, they say, totally committed to understanding what problems face Gay people in Hong Kong based solely on the grounds of their sexual orientation. That mountains of information already exists in Hong Kong seems to have escaped their notice, even though sources have been made available to them.

Last month the Home Affairs branch held an informal luncheon with representatives from all of the officially registered, and therefore recognised, Gay groups. At that luncheon, seen by the Gay groups as an initial step towards the implementation of a full scale consultation, officials took great pains to make it clear that they were sincere in their desire to allow full equal rights.

The, by now, infamous telephone survey was discussed at great

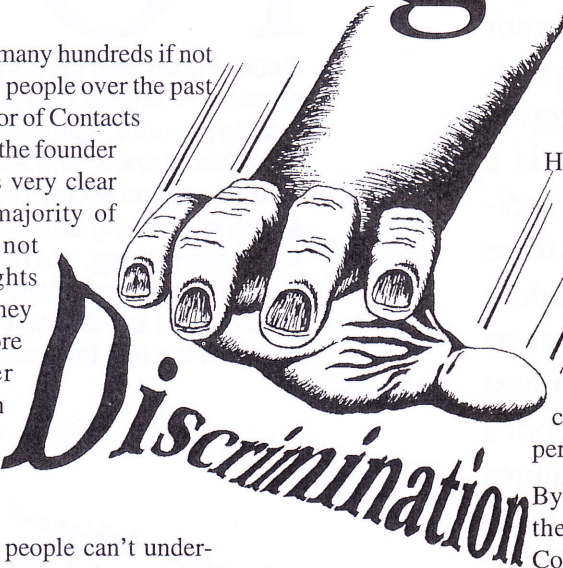
lengths. The Gay groups made it transparently clear that they would warmly welcome active consultation at every stage of the survey; and then at all levels of discussion in drawing up a paper for Legco to consider.

Since prior to this informal meeting the government has had little or no working relationships with any of the 5 groups the Gay groups are very hopeful that progress can be both swift and meaningful.

Adversity has a strange way of bringing people together. Faced with the somewhat daunting task of tackling the government To enable Gay people to at long last obtain their lawful rights the Gay groups; *Contacts Magazine* the Lesbian & Gay magazine,

## Against

By Barrie Brandon



Horizons the 'phone line service, The Hong Kong 10% Club society, Isvara the Gay Buddhist group, and Satsanga have formed an alliance. Called the Coalition of Gay Groups (CoGG) the group aims to be pro-active in ensuring anti-discrimination on behalf of every Gay person in Hong Kong.

By adopting a pro-active rather than the more traditional re-active role CoGG hope that they will be able to play an big part in influencing Home Affairs Branch thinking.

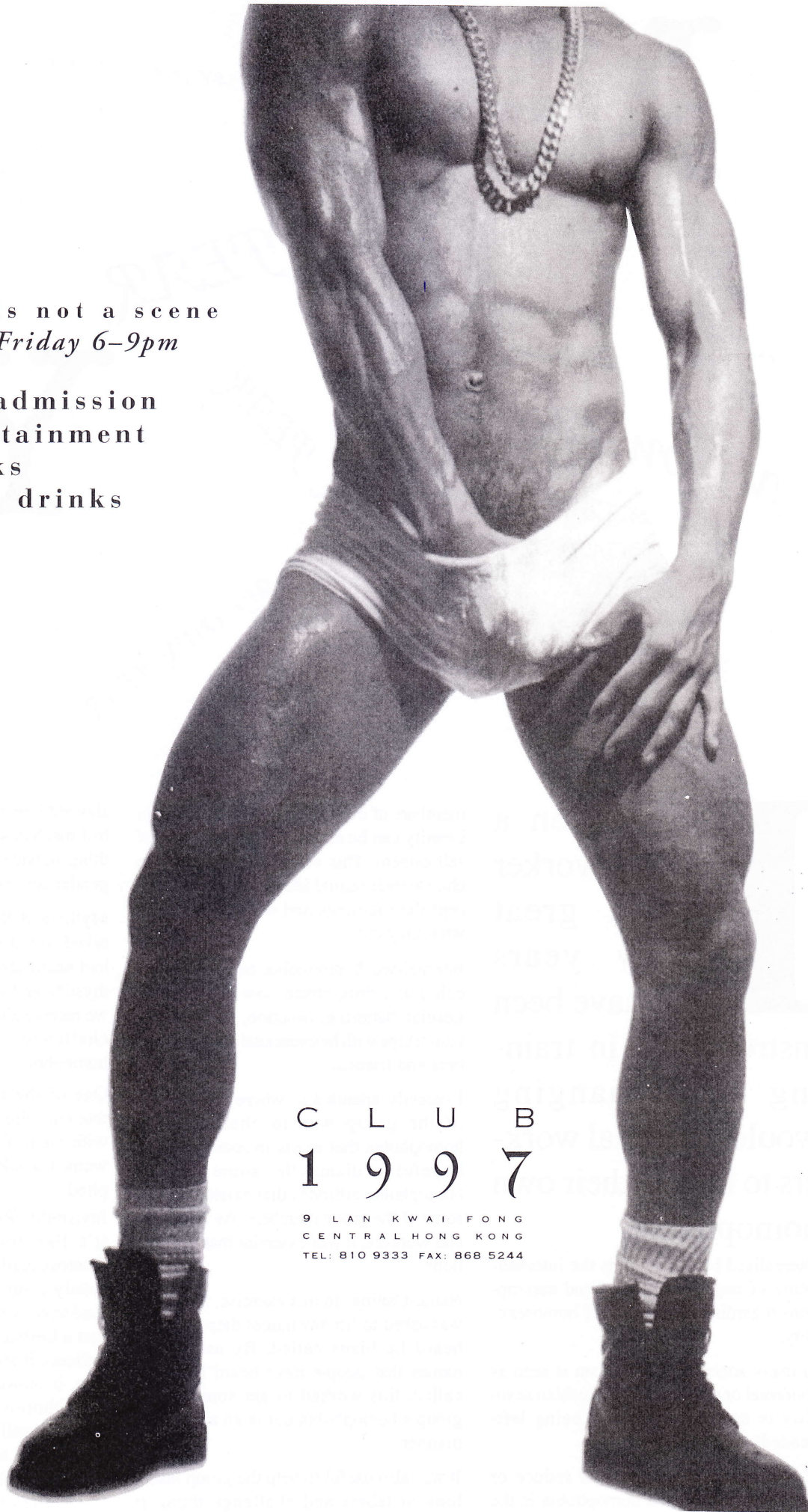
CoGG has an enormous amount of work to do over the next few months. But it is ready and willing to take on some serious negotiating on our behalf. "It's not just Gay groups that can take part" said their spokesperson, "any individual Gay person who wants to get involved will be welcomed with open arms".

The Coalition has promised to work as closely with the government as it can during the consultation over the next few months. It will also, CoGG members agreed at the inaugural meeting in October, be involved in lobbying Legco members, and non-governmental organisations (NGO's) until anti-discrimination becomes law.

Although every member group will retain their independence and make their own individual presentations to the Home Affairs branch and, ultimately to the Bills Committee the new coalition will "enable a more cohesive voice to speak for the Gay community on a wide variety of issues connected with legislation" said their spokesperson.

This is the first time all the recognised groups have got together to discuss important issues. It is never easy for separate groups or organisations all who have different aims and objectives, to meet with others and put aside boundary differences to achieve something worthwhile both for this and future generations of Gay people in Hong Kong.





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by J.Abramchyk

**I** have been a social worker for a great many years and have been instrumental in training and changing would-be social workers to look at their own homophobia.

Internalised homophobia is the internalisation of negative attitudes and assumptions regarding Lesbianism or homosexuality.

In many societies, Lesbianism is seen as abnormal or sick. However, Lesbian sexuality is no more rare than being left-handed.

It is extremely important to reduce or eliminate internalised homophobia in the

members of our society, so that a Lesbian identity can be assumed without a loss of self-esteem. This would allow women to choose their sexual identity freely and accept their feelings and desires no matter what they are.

Internalised homophobia can lead to alcohol and drug abuse, low self-esteem, Lesbian battering, isolation, and false relationships with heterosexual family members and friends.

I recently attended a where the purpose of the group was to challenge the homophobia that exists in society and to hopefully dismantle some of the homophobic attitudes that existed among some of the group members. As future social workers, it was essential that this was done.

**Name-Calling.** In this exercise, the group was asked to list any names they had ever heard Lesbians called. By asking for names that people have heard Lesbians called, this worked to get some of the group's homophobia out in an acceptable manner.

It was also useful to help the group take a look at labels and challenge them. It

showed how society uses names as a control mechanism; society tells us that anything outside of the norm, or outside of gender stereotypes is wrong or deviant.

**Myths and Stereotypes.** The group was asked to list myths and stereotypes they had heard about Lesbians, helping to demystify and challenge the messages that we receive about Lesbians. It also helps to challenge one's own internalised homophobia.

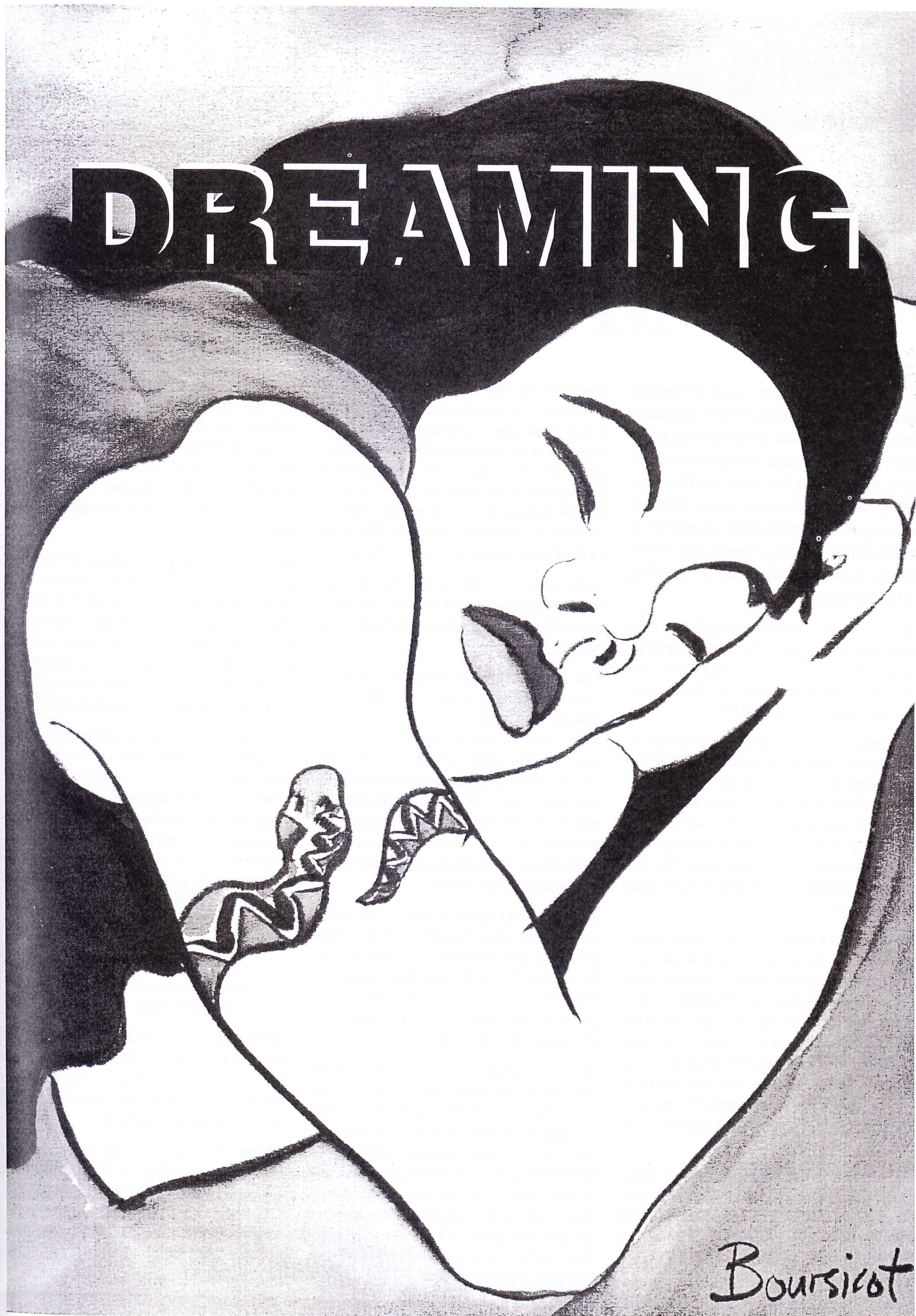
One of the myths is that Lesbians are women who have had bad experiences with men, if this were the case then all women would be Lesbians, the group replied.

**Invisibility Role-play.** It helps to see what it's like for a Lesbian to live in a heterosexually dominated world that constantly assumes that she is heterosexual. And to convey some of the fears and risks that a Lesbian would almost certainly experience if she were to come out. In addition, it showed the group why a Lesbian may choose silence and isolation in a heterosexually dominated world because the risks of coming out include the risks of losing jobs, mental health, and cred-

(Continued to page 18)



# DREAMING



Boursicot





## C A L E N D A R MYSTERY

By Danny Wong

**Concerned Asian and Friends launched an Asian beefcake calendar last month to raise funds principally for AIDS Concern. What started off as a very laudable, and on the surface, worthwhile endeavour turned into a political battle with people from both sides offering views and ideas quite, it seems to me, out of keeping with the aim.**

So what caused all the fuss? After all here was a group of men who had thought up an different approach to raising money for that most noble of causes: work with people who have AIDS or HIV.

To get a clearer understanding of the issues involved it is necessary to go back to the original story by Jason Gagliardi in the Eastern Express. In that article the aims of the project is quoted as "to raise funds by producing a 1996 calendar featuring well-muscled Asian men. The calendar is intended to appeal to both male and female consumers."

And therein lies the crux of the issue—male and female consumers. Later in the article the spokesperson Philip Bachelor (variously spelt Bachler and Bachilar in different articles and papers) said "we were very careful that it's not going to be a Gay oriented kind of thing. We were also very careful that it is not in any way sleazy or damaging to the organisation for which it is designed to raise funds (AIDS Concern)."

What then is the problem about it being seen to be a Gay calendar? Didn't they say that it was intended to appeal to male and female consumers? Couldn't the male consumers to whom they are appealing be Gay?

Were they saying that if it was a purely

Gay calendar that it would by implication be sleazy? A somewhat startling statement if that is the case seeing that 4 out of the 5 directors of the project are themselves Gay. One of the directors a closeted Singaporean Gay man, who used to work for the Television and licensing Authority (TELA), apparently gave the OK as far as the decency laws were concerned.

Both the companies sponsoring the calendar Propaganda and Gear are Gay companies that make their money from the Gay community.

The more, it seemed, the project tried to dig themselves out of the hole of their own making the further down they went. Tom Turk's Gym where the calendars models work out has long been known as a favourite cruising place for members of the Gay community. Even after Mike Sinclair was thrown out by Tom Turk for being HIV positive Gay men still continued to use the gym despite exhortations from Gay activists to boycott the place.

Bachelor denying in a letter to the Eastern Express a few days later that they support Tom Turk whined "we can in no way be expected to influence their policies." Well blow me down. If the users of any place cannot exert pressure for change on the places they use who can?

Any group challenging the status quo on any subject anywhere will have an effect on the policies of that place. The logical conclusion is that had the Gay community stood by Mike Sinclair when he was kicked out of Tom Turk's the management would have had to take notice. Some estimates put the percentage of Gays users of the gym as high as 75%. Imagine any business not having any regard to what 3/4 of the users said they wanted.

The project directors have been very reti-

cent about whether the models themselves are Gay. The question one really is faced with is: does it really matter? If the models have well-muscled bodies (having seen a calendar I can tell you that they do) what possible use to the consumer is the knowledge that their favourite model is/is not Gay?

Ian Mc Fadzean a ostentatiously wealthy and well known Gay man about town tried to play down the issue in a letter to editor (Eastern Express) saying that most of the Gay community is not interested in Gay pride and even friends of Gay (by that I think he means Gay friendly people) have no interest in the subject whatsoever.

Mc Fadzean as a founder member of AIDS Concern has a vested interest in seeing the calendar succeed. Tugging on the heartstrings Mc Fadzean went onto say he supports the calendar and other projects (none of them Gay) because he had a good friend who died recently. While it is an excellent idea to support worthwhile causes, far too many of us support charities such as AIDS Concern simply by default. We should be making sure that the money we give either by direct donations or by buying goods reflects the type of services we actually want.

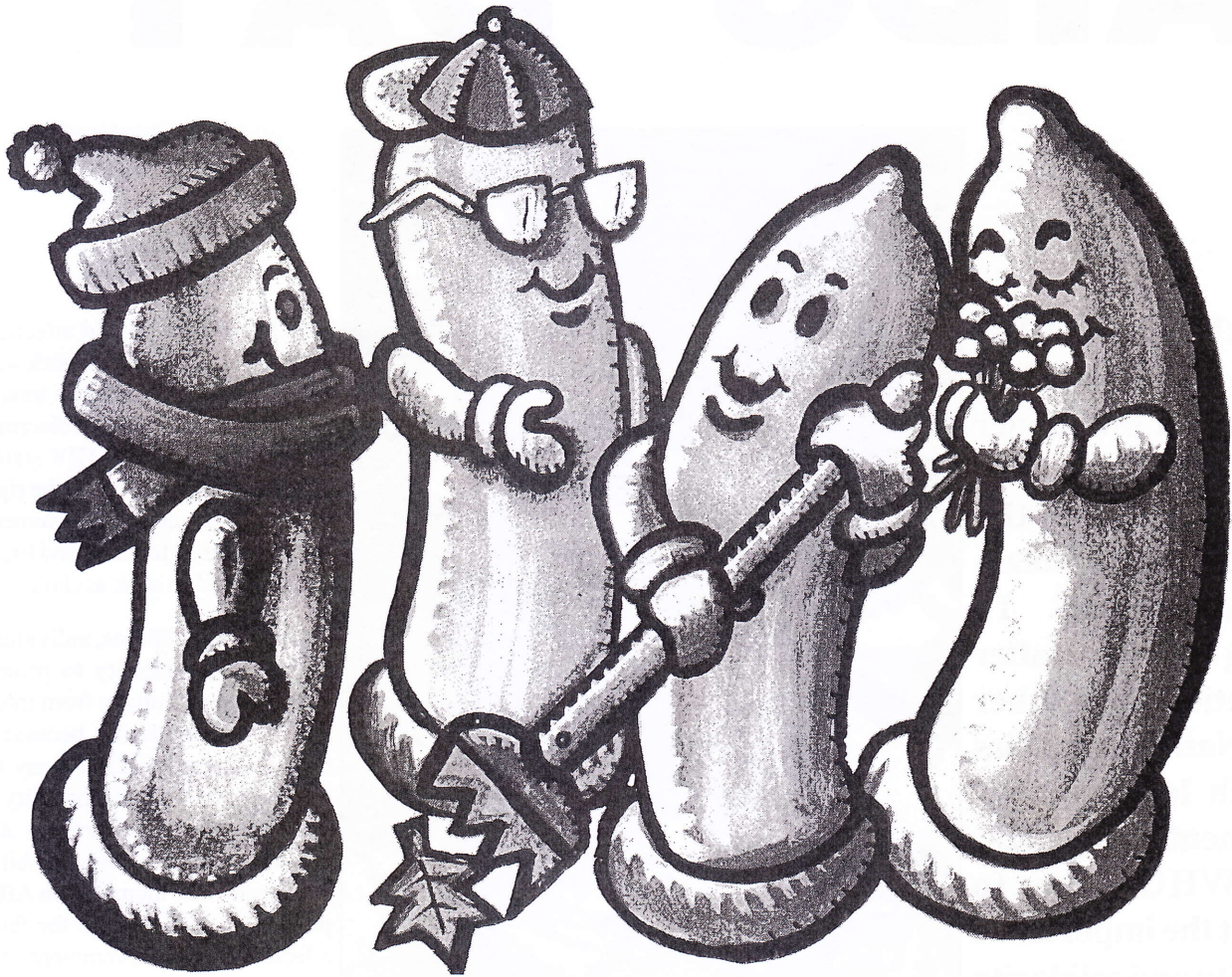
AIDS Concern no doubt wanting to try to retain their squeaky clean image made a what is by now its' bland standard disclaimer saying the money had been offered and accepted in good faith.

I hope very much for the sake of future generations of Gays in Hong Kong Mc Fadzean is wrong in his assumption that Gay people aren't interested in Gay pride. Meanwhile what started off as a good fund-raising idea certainly turned sour for a lot of its' would-be supporters.



# SAFE SEX

*any reason, any season,*



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# WORLD AIDS DAY

**World AIDS Day - 1 December - will be marked in 1995 under the banner Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities, the World Health Organization announced. In choosing the theme, after consultation with other United Nations agencies and with leading non-governmental organizations, WHO aims to highlight the importance of equality and solidarity in the global response to HIV/AIDS.**

The HIV/AIDS pandemic can be addressed effectively only if rights and responsibilities are shared equally across the globe", says Dr Hiroshi Nakajima, Director-General of WHO. "People share the same rights whether or not they are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). And responsibilities involved in HIV prevention and caring for those infected must be shared too."

Everyone - men, women, children, the poor, minorities, migrants, refugees, sex workers, drug injectors, gay men - has the



*Photo by Contacts Magazine*

## 1995 SHARED RIGHTS SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES

right to be able to avoid infection, the right to health care, if sick with AIDS, and the right to be treated with dignity and without discrimination. Regardless of HIV status, shared rights also include the right to liberty, freedom of movement, to employment, to marry and found a family, and to seek asylum.

As for responsibilities, individuals have a responsibility to protect themselves and others from infection. Men in particular, because of their dominant status in many societies, have the responsibility to practise safe sex. Families and communities have a responsibility to educate their members on AIDS prevention, and to care for those affected by HIV. Governments, fulfilling their duty to protect public health, have a responsibility to implement appropriate HIV prevention policies and to ensure that all their citizens have equal access to available care services. For its part, the international community has a responsibility to ensure effective global cooperation on HIV/AIDS, and to support poorer countries in meeting the challenge.

For World AIDS Day 1995, WHO invites individuals, families, governments and the international community to expand this list, to begin a dialogue on rights and responsibilities, and - most importantly - to ensure that all rights are respected and responsibilities fulfilled.

In 1995, the United Nations International



Year for Tolerance, the theme of Shared Rights, Shared Responsibilities is particularly appropriate for events and activities leading up to World AIDS Day and beyond.

Everyone shares the right to tolerance from others and the responsibility to be tolerant of others, regardless of gender, race, religion, ethnic background, social standing or health status, including HIV infection", says Dr Peter Piot, Director of the joint and cosponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS, which will bring together the AIDS work to WHO and five other UN agencies (1) by the end of 1995.

World AIDS Day was observed for the first time on 1 December 1988 after a summit of world health ministers called for a spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS. Previous World AIDS Days have had the following slogans: Join the Worldwide Effort (1988), Our Lives, Our World - Let's Take Care of Each Other (1989), Women and AIDS (1990), Sharing the Challenge (1991), A Community Commitment (1992) and Time to Act (1993). On 1 December 1994, as 42 nations met in France for the Paris AIDS Summit, hundreds of thousands of people around the globe marked World AIDS Day under the banner of AIDS and the Family and its related slogan, 'Families Take Care'.

The 1995 theme builds on part of the Paris Declaration, which proclaimed the determination of signatories to fight discrimination and promote the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and of those most vulnerable of infection.

"People living with HIV/AIDS should have equal access to education, employment, health care and social benefits, says Dr Piot. "Vulnerable groups should suffer no discrimination in the context of HIV/AIDS."

There is no conflict between individual rights and public health in the context of HIV/AIDS. In fact, the protection of human rights promotes public health, because discriminatory and coercive measures discourage people from coming forward for information and treatment.

Nearly 20 million people including 1.5 million children, had been infected with HIV by the end of 1994 since the start of the pandemic, according to estimates pub-

lished in January 1995 by WHO's Global Programme on AIDS (GPA). The total number of people estimated to have developed AIDS since the start of the pandemic rose to around 4.5 million at the end of 1994.

Last year's World AIDS Day events included marches and demonstrations, concerts and exhibitions, educational programmes and condom promotions, commemorations, artistic happenings and countless other events. For many groups and organizations, World AIDS "Day" extended over a week or even longer, crowning months of activity of the theme. WHO hopes that World AIDS Day 1995 will spur the global response to HIV/AIDS by awak-

**Everyone - men, women, children, the poor, minorities, migrants, refugees, sex workers, drug injectors, gay men - has the right to be able to avoid infection, the right to health care, if sick with AIDS, and the right to be treated with dignity and without discrimination.**

ening people to their shared rights and responsibilities - and urging them to action. (1) The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the World Bank.

#### **Meanwhile in Canada.**

Cancer researchers have developed drugs that can paralyse the virus that causes AIDS. "It's as if the virus isn't there at all," said Dr. Jim Wright of the Manitoba Institute for Cell Biology at the Manitoba Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. "The cells would act as though they were normal."

The research, tested on lab animals and human tissue, is being hailed as a major breakthrough. The two genetic drugs called anti-sense molecules, which mimic

DNA, were designed by Wright and colleague Dr. Mike Anazodo using insights gleaned from cancer chemotherapy drugs. The new drugs are so promising that Wright and his colleagues have applied for patents for both.

Wright synthesized man-made genes in a test-tube to mimic the ones in HIV. He found that injecting the substance into the virus immobilized it, stopping it from growing. It's a completely new approach to blocking the AIDS virus. Wright said it acts much like an antibiotic at a genetic level. Gene therapy works by stopping the virus from copying itself. In turn, it can't spread in the body.

In three years of research, the two drugs have passed two preliminary but major hurdles. The crucial test for the new drugs is expected within a year, pending federal approval, for clinical trials on people infected with the AIDS virus.

Lab tests in Winnipeg have proven the drugs immobilize the virus in monkey cells. Preliminary, collaborating research in Montreal, where one of Canada's top AIDS researchers has joined the Winnipeg work, shows that the drugs also kill AIDS in human cells in lab tests. Institute director Dr. Arnold Greenberg said that if the clinical trials confirm the promise shown so far, the drugs will be hailed in headlines around the world.

#### **UK**

Two new British studies have added to the speculation that a herpes-like virus causes Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), the deadly and disfiguring cancer that strikes approximately 15 to 20 per cent of gay men with AIDS. The studies, despite their small samples, have isolated genetic material from a herpes-like virus not only in PWAs, but in patients who have the cancer without being HIV-positive.

Researchers believe that KS could possibly be sexually transmissible, as it is relatively uncommon in people who have contracted the HIV virus through blood transfusions and IV drug use.

In London seven out of 10 gay men in Britain are not using a condom when they have penetrative sex, according to a seven-year study of their sex diaries revealed late September.



(Continued from page 12)

ibility. That heterosexual privilege and protection is pervasive in society is well known.

Social workers should work at combating their own feelings of internalised homophobia because Lesbian clients may see them as representative members of society. They are also seen as an authority figures by their clients. Their reaction will have an impact on their clients; if they react calmly to their clients' Lesbian identity, then their clients may expect others to do the same.

Even the Lesbian community clients have come from probably carries a negative attitude towards Lesbianism, so a calm reaction to her coming out is very important.

An accepting positive attitude towards the clients' Lesbian identity can lead to her own self-acceptance. If clients do not receive accepting reactions, they are likely to become isolated, shamed, and even silenced about their sexual identity which, in turn, will perpetuate internalised homophobia.

Once a Lesbian becomes invisible, she may live in isolation, and allow homophobic attitudes to have power over her life. In order to work at eliminating internalised homophobia, she rid of the negative thought-processes that go on in her head about Lesbians.

Negative stereotypes of Lesbians can be challenged in therapy. Social workers should point out that no real stereotypes exist since Lesbians are a very diverse population. Many Lesbians will avoid identifying themselves as such until they have a positive view towards Lesbianism. This can often be difficult to achieve since there is a real lack of positive Lesbian role models in society.

Social workers should encourage their clients to seek out Lesbian communities or Lesbian friends, positive experiences will go a long way in eliminating internalised homophobia.

Many Lesbians who have internalised homophobia isolate themselves. However, it is important, as social workers, to let them know that there are many others like them, so they do not think that something is wrong with them.

External homophobia exists to work against us. It works to keep Lesbians isolated from one another. Since societal attitudes contribute to internalised

homophobia, we must work at eliminating these attitudes, so that we can, in turn, eliminate internalised homophobia.

Therapists must convey the idea that Lesbian sexuality is as acceptable and normal as heterosexuality, because internalised homophobia succeeds at conveying the idea that Lesbian lifestyles are not as important or valid as heterosexual lifestyles. They need to feel that their relations with women are "normal" as opposed to strange or sinful.

As long as Lesbians feel negatively towards their sexuality they will find it hard to muster up enough strength and courage to fight for their rights and to work at eliminating the discrimination towards them.

The word "Lesbian" should be used freely and often so that both heterosexual women and Lesbian women can begin to rid themselves of the negative connotations attached to this word. Silence about Lesbian issues contributes to internalised homophobia.

Lesbians are members of an oppressed group, and like members of any oppressed group, they need to work on issues of self-esteem and self-acceptance in order to counter the power of homophobic oppression in our society.

It is important to try to instil the belief that Lesbians have the choice whether to internalise these messages or not. It is important that we do not look at the gender of the people in an intimate relationship as a reference for what is healthy, but rather the content of that relationship and whether that is healthy.

We can drop the automatic assumption that everyone is heterosexual. However, we must get beyond our homophobia in order to do so. If we can work at eliminating homophobia, children will not be slotted into gender specific roles in fear that they may be otherwise called "faggot" or "tom-boy".

People will feel free to love others and be affectionate towards others of the same gender regardless of their sexual orientation. Lesbians and Gay men will feel less isolated from each other and from society as a whole. Women will be able to take on otherwise male-dominated occupations without feeling stigmatised. Men will feel less like they have to assert their masculinity and will therefore be less likely to be violent, aggressive, dominating, and controlling.

# P R E J U D I C E D

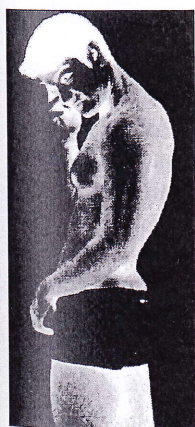
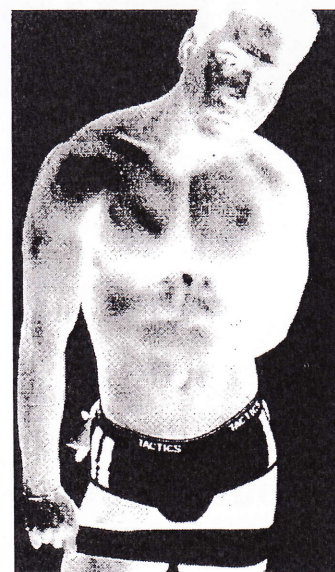
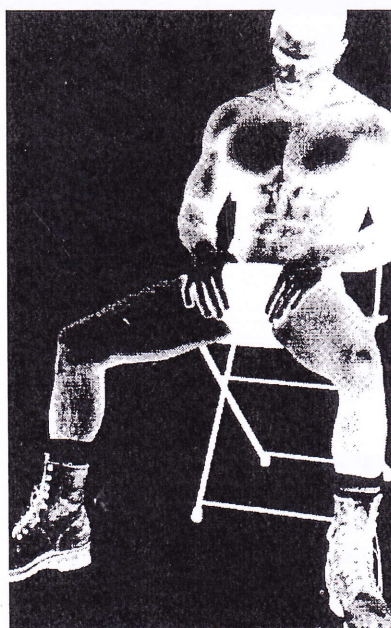
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# HONG KONG MEN 1996

CONCERNED ASIANS AND FRIENDS

## CALENDAR



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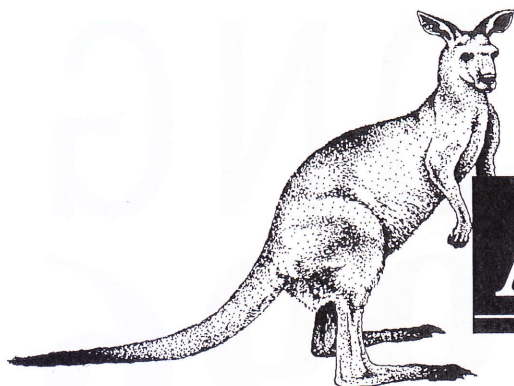
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# Australia's

# Racism



*by Michael Connor*

**Dr. Gerard Sullivan, a Sydney based academic, told a national conference on 'Emerging Lesbian and Gay Communities' that racism remains a significant problem within the Gay community.**

Organised last month in Sydney by the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research, the conference brought together activists and academics from all over the Asian region.

In the opening address to the conference Sullivan said it was necessary to frankly discuss negative aspects of some inter-racial Gay relationships. "It is often assumed, for example, that an Asian man will be passive and like only older men.

Some Anglo-Saxon men see an Asian man as something exotic, but inferior," Sullivan said.

The large number of Gay classifieds placed by older white men specifically seeking young Asian men was cited as evidence of racist stereo-typing. "While many relationships are positive and negotiate cultural differences successfully, it remains the case some are based on racist stereotypes and inequalities of power," Sullivan commented.

But Sullivan also told the conference that many men resist such stereotypes. "Consider the case of a recent classified placed by a young Asian man that began 'I don't do laundry.' This is just one of many examples of Asian-Australian Gay men setting the agenda."

According to T.C. Ng, founder of Silkroads (a Gay Asian support group), racist behaviour is a common occurrence at bars. But Ng is positive about the future. "In the last five years or so there has been a notable increase in confidence among young Gay Asian-Australian men. They

are more willing to make their own mark in the Gay community, independently of white men," Ng told Brother Sister.

Aboriginal Activist Sue Green, from the Wiradjuri community in Northern NSW, told the conference that indigenous Lesbian and Gay Australians were subject to open and vehement racism. While some conference participants were eager to hear about homophobia within aboriginal communities, Green declined to discuss the issue. "I'm not going to speak about homophobia within aboriginal communities because the biggest hurdle I and others face is racism in the Lesbian and Gay communities," Green said.

Green attacked mainstream Lesbian and Gay organisations for expressing only tokenistic interest in aboriginal issues. She told the conference that indigenous people's determination to fight injustice should not be underestimated. "We're not victims, we are survivors. We'll survive homophobia and racism," she told the conference.





# GRIEF

*By Brett White*

**Today,**

some of us have lived with grief.

Some of us are living with grief.

Many more of us, I'm afraid, will have to come to live with grief.

**We live, therefore, we grieve.**

Picture yourself, if you will on top of a high jagged mountain, it's windy and terribly cold, and to survive, you need to make your way cautiously, ever cautiously, down its dangerously narrow edges into the dark.

As you make your way, step by step, Grief rushes up the side of the mountain in a great gust of wind, that threatens to cast you off your precarious position down onto the ragged rocks below.

So you hang on with all you right until the threat of despair passes. Finally after many days and nights we finally enter into the valley of calm, where soft warm breezes envelope us, bringing back memories of happier days.

**Memories that once again can make us smile.**

But beware as our lives settle, and our survival skills, assert themselves. Grief has the power like a great of wind that sweeps down unexpectedly from those same jagged mountains to chill our song.

But we realise it no longer has the power to cast us onto the rocks below as once before.

Grief like guilt, may never become our friends, however by coming to terms with them, they don't have to be our enemies.

**We will  
survive**





# GAY GERMANY

## Gay Culture Flourished In Pre-Nazi Germany

By H. Lucas Ginn

**T**he horror of minority persecution during the Holocaust is etched into the mind of modern Western man. The sufferings of millions of Jews, homosexuals, gypsies, and religious minorities is painfully recreated in memorials, books, and art work throughout the world. Images of death and persecution will certainly be recalled as our community celebrates Gay and Lesbian History Month. However, it is also necessary to have some knowledge of pre-Nazi Germany so that the Holocaust can be better understood and the likelihood of history repeating itself diminishes.

The German Gay rights movement began in 1896 when a small circle of Gay male friends and associates began sporadic publication of the journal *Der Eigene* (Self-Owner). The journal was a celebration of male art, literature, and camaraderie. It consisted of articles written by Gay scholars, erotic photographs, and perhaps most significantly, personal ads that allowed Gay German men to meet discreetly and network with one another.

Publishing a homosexual-oriented journal was risky business in early 20th century Germany. Paragraph 175 of the strict German penal code made male homosexual sex punishable by a stiff prison sentence. The police and puritanical citizen groups wielded Paragraph 175 as a weapon against Gays. *Der Eigene* and its publisher Adolf Brand were frequent targets of homophobic wrath. Brand's home was searched by police on numerous occasions and Brand served two months in jail for "lascivious writings." In the face of such persecution, Brand and other contributors to *Der Eigene* meekly defended their work by citing its scientific and artistic value

and downplaying its sexual themes. Despite intimidation from German authorities, *Der Eigene* continued to be published. However, the threat of police harassment probably did take a toll on the fledgling publication; historians estimate that no more than 1500 men subscribed to *Der Eigene*.

*Der Eigene* was not written as a means of political activism. Indeed, most of its readers were well-educated men who had already accepted their homosexuality. The political aspect of the German Gay rights struggle was taken up by the Scientific Humanitarian Committee (SHC), founded in 1897. Led by famed sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld, the SHC had three primary goals: the abolition of Paragraph 175, educating the public about homosexuality, and forging interest among homosexuals in the Gay rights movement. To accomplish its aims, the SHC sponsored speaking-tours and exhibits and donated pro-Gay publications to libraries. The centrepiece of its activism was the circulation of a petition calling for the repeal of Paragraph 175 by the German parliament. Despite gaining the support of prominent Germans, both Gay and straight, Hirschfeld and other members of the SHC were ultimately unsuccessful in their attempts to win a repeal of anti-Gay laws. However, the work of the SHC was not in vain. Due largely to the efforts of the SHC, homosexuality became a widespread topic of conversation and debate in Germany. Gay rights were debated and discussed in the leading German newspapers and in households throughout the country. Gay men emerged from the shadows of prejudice and myth to make their presence known to their straight countrymen.

Both *Der Eigene* and the SHC worked primarily on behalf of Gay men. Lesbianism was not proscribed by law and Lesbian journals and businesses flourished in the Weimar Republic. Lesbians were invited to join the SHC, but few chose to do so, in

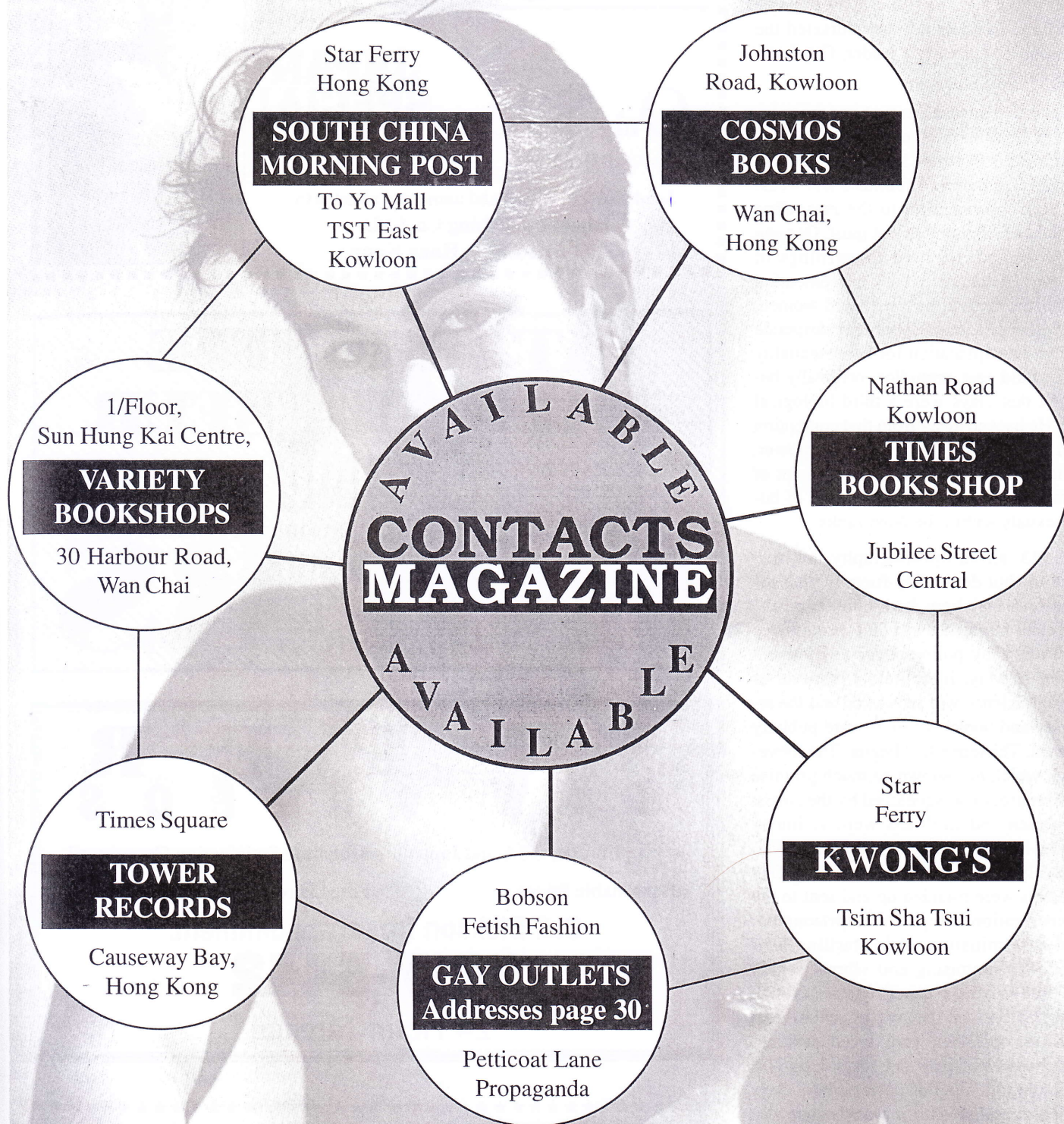
part because of the organisation's emphasis on the repeal of male sodomy laws. Lesbians and Gay men, while sharing the common bond of homosexuality, led separate lives and struggles.

World War I was a major turning point in German history. German participation in the war lasted from 1914 to 1919 and ended in devastating defeat. Inflation soared. Millions were unemployed. Poverty stained the cities of a once proud and militant nation. The devastation of the war caused the German people to re-examine their national values, including sexual values. Greater tolerance emerged for sexual variations and expression and it was during the 1920s that mainstream Gay life came out of the closet, out of the shadows of fear. No longer was Gay society limited to the intellectual elite. Gay bars and clubs opened in major German cities, creating coherent Gay neighbourhoods. The numbers of Gay male periodicals soared.

Historian Frank Rector estimates that there were more Gay bars and periodicals in 1920 Berlin, the capital of Gay Germany, than there were in 1980 New York. The infamous Paragraph 175 remained in the penal code, but many police were reluctant to enforce it in the larger cities. The success and openness of German Gays during the 1920s ultimately hurt them. The Berlin that was synonymous with Gay culture was the same city that was synonymous with government corruption and ineptitude. The German people began to look for scapegoats for the ills that had befallen their nation. The Jews and Gays of Berlin were easy targets.

Gay men and Lesbians suffered under the same poverty and hardship that their straight compatriots faced. Like many Germans, Gays and Lesbians were attracted to promises of wealth and a restoration of national prestige offered by a rising political force the National Socialists or Nazis. The Nazi glorification





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In 1933, an anti-pornography law was used to shut down Gay-friendly publications. All Gay bars, bath houses, hotels, and cafes frequented by homosexuals were shut down by police under government order. In May, Hirschfeld's Institute of Sexual Science was ransacked and the archives and books within it were publicly burned. The terror had begun. The movement which had shown so much promise and progress was squelched by the Nazis. Gay men and Lesbians were viciously forced back into the closet and those who dared live openly or maintain their Gay contacts were rounded up and sent to the concentration camps for imprisonment and extermination. It is startling how quickly a promising and vibrant sexual revolution was crushed. Homosexuals, who had been on the cusp of sexual freedom and openness, were forced back into the shadows of fear and secrecy by Hitler's consolidation of power. Many Gays failed to realise until it was too late that under the promises of a restoration of national glory lurked tyranny and bigotry.

Rector, Frank. *The Nazi Extermination of Homosexuals*. New York: Stein and Day, 1981.

## A black and white photograph of a man posing shirtless. He is wearing a cat mask with large, pointed ears and a headband with a leafy sprig. He has his hands on his hips and is looking directly at the camera. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, vintage aesthetic.

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## 24 Hour Service

PLEASE CALL 71128128 PAGE 728



**As heads of state from around the world gathered to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists convened an international tribunal in New York City to call attention to the widespread and systematic abuse of lesbian, gay and bisexual and transgendered people.**

The first-ever International Tribunal on Human Rights Violations Against Sexual Minorities took place on Tuesday, 17 October, on First Avenue, New York. The Tribunal provided an international forum for individuals who have suffered persecution and abuse based on their sexual orientation.

The testifiers, who represent a range of issues and regions, presented their cases to a distinguished panel of international

"This is about basic human rights," said Lester Olmstead-Rose, executive director of Community United Against Violence, the other sponsoring organisation. "The Tribunal illustrated the physical attacks against us; physical attacks of arrest, torture, harassment and murder; physical attacks which deprive us of life and liberty."

Co-chairs for the Tribunal were Urvashi Vaid, activist, author and former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and James C. Hormel, gay philanthropist and a founding director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

"The UN must recognise that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are entitled to all existing human-rights guarantees," Vaid said.

"The Tribunal forum offered a means of presenting with dignity a clear case of need for redress," Hormel said. "It is time to focus the world's attention on persecution based on sexual orientation and to put an end to these civil wrongs."

granted him asylum in 1994 based upon fear of persecution. He currently resides in a Washington, D.C., suburb.

Anuja Gupta, New Delhi, India. She has worked with ABVA, the group of prostitutes, lesbians, gay men, professional blood donors and others whose attempt to distribute condoms inside Tihar Jail in New Delhi has sparked a campaign to decriminalise sodomy in India.

Mariela Munoz, Buenos Aires, Argentina. A transsexual woman whose three foster children were taken away from her by the Argentinean government. Mariela won the sympathy of the Argentinean public during a highly publicised court case and now runs a home for single mothers and their children.

Herbert Mondhlani, Harare, Zimbabwe. He is a member of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ), which was recently denied permission to participate in the International Book Fair in Harare. Following international protests, President Robert

*Action from the*



## International Tribunal in New York Coincides With UN's Fiftieth Anniversary

human-rights experts including Kerry Kennedy Cuomo, former director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Centre, and Deputy Marta Suplicy, member of the Brazilian Parliament and Brazilian Human Rights Commission.

At the conclusion of the testimony, the judges issued recommendations calling for the UN and other human-rights organisations to take their rightful and necessary roles as protectors and defenders of the human rights of sexual minorities worldwide.

"The UN continues to turn a blind eye to human-rights violations based on sexual orientation, gender identity and HIV status," said Julie Dorf, executive director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), one of the two organisations sponsoring the Tribunal.

Individuals who spoke at the Tribunal included:

Wilfredo Valencia-Palacios, San Salvador, El Salvador. A gay man and AIDS activist who has been marked for assassination by a death squad. Wilfredo has been beaten, followed and shot at in the street. Amnesty International has issued urgent appeals on his case after being approached by IGLHRC.

Daphne Scholinski, San Francisco, U.S.A. A 29-year-old lesbian who was institutionalised in a psychiatric facility between the ages of 14 and 18 with a psychiatric diagnosis of "gender identity disorder." Medical staff tried to make her behave in a more "feminine" manner.

Serkan Altan, Turkey. A 23-year-old gay man who was taken into custody by Turkish police, raped and beaten because of his sexual orientation. The U.S. government

Mugabe issued threats of imprisonment of lesbians and gay men and publicly supported the denial of freedom of association.

Ciprian Cucu, Timisoara, Romania. Ciprian Cucu and his lover were arrested under Romania's Article 200 which outlaws same-sex sexual relations. Police broke into the couple's house, arrested them and imprisoned them for several months, until they were released under pressure from IGLHRC and Amnesty International.

Elizabeth Lim, Quezon City, Philippines. She and her lover Evangeline Castronuevo were sacked from their jobs at a human rights organisation because of their relationship. Their law suit charging their employers with discrimination is the first legal case in Asia on a lesbian issue.





fifi



Tells All...

## AIDS

Dear Fifi,

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that you will publish it in your monthly column. I am the world renowned Director of Enlightenment at AIDS Discern, Hong Kong's premiere AIDS charity. We take great pride in spreading the AIDS message to all of the acceptably appropriate audiences. Well, we have now published a calendar featuring Chinese Gym Bunnies which we are selling for HK\$125. The entire proceeds will pay for my salary, and two mailing in the next year to about 2,000 heterosexuals in which paid employees will all thank each other profusely for whatever we can possibly come up with at the time, but got paid to do anyway.

The Gay community has cordially paid for all printing costs for which we sincerely thank you, and your HIV negative guilt pangs. The calendar unfortunately doesn't come in laminated versions, as the pages of your calendar become stuck together, you will find it in your heart to support our work in addressing the needs of our officially sanctioned target group. Hallelujah!

Oh, and by the way, most likely by the time this letter appears in your column, our new "Homosexual Men's Guide to Safer Sex" pamphlet will be available at probably two officially sanctioned outlets in Hong Kong at a cost of HK\$150. (Don't even think about finding a copy at any Hong Kong's ten saunas) Sorry it's taken so long to print this material but, hey guys, we had to consult our Geomancer to find out when was the most auspicious date. Not only that but

we are only into the 15th year of AIDS plague...we only have eight paid staff, give us a chance!

Thanks again for your support; someday you may be running a charitable organization yourself, and will see how difficult it is.

Kindest regards, and "sincerely" yours,

Horatio Harold Hollingsworth Esquire  
VIII

Dear HHHE,

Now that all the un-called for AIDS Discern bashing is over, I am pleased that we can get on with the serious business of addressing the needs of those target groups we are so concerned with.

By the way readers if you haven't seen a copy of the Calendar, I suggest you save Mr. January for the end, otherwise you won't even bother looking at February.

## BODY HAIR

Dear Fifi,

Lately I have been seeing a man with quite a bit of body hair. It begins with his moustache, and goes all the way non-stop down to his toes. The texture is quite soft, and I enjoy cuddling with him immensely. But last week my boyfriend asked me to help him shave his body. I thought the request a bit strange, and am wondering if I help him, will it ever grow back?

Furry Friend,

Dear Furry,

Why do you think men have to shave their faces every day? Why do women undergo electrolysis? Why do you ask such a stu-

pid question? Unless your man is also eating estrogen pulls every day, it will grow back faster than you can say "sex change operation."

For the sake of comfort, I would suggest however you use about a dozen razors in the course of your friend's shaving. Forget the shaving cream, but do use plenty of body lotion, and watch those corners. Keep away from the Nair, and don't even think about using wax (unless you are doing the scrotum as scrotum waxing is quickly becoming one of America's favourite pastimes). Body shaving is far more popular than body piercing, and at least ten times the fun. And unlike getting a tattoo, or body piercing, you can do it over and over again. Remember, for the sake of aesthetics, don't get fancy and try to leave a pattern in your beau's chest, or anywhere else, and unless your name is Michaelangelo, do a complete anatomical feature, or don't touch that feature at all.

Beware that the first 20 minutes of sex are absolute ecstasy, it's like doing it with a greased inflatable doll, except they do scream if you hurt them. The second day it's like wrestling with a rose bush, which can actually be quite erotic too. As far as your friend is concerned, it's only fair to let him know that for three weeks after the shave, he will be reminded 24 hours a day of each of his body parts. (In the case of MY husband, it would be a pleasant change.) Good luck to the two of you!

**Until next time, keep the condoms coming. And if you have any more scintillating questions, you can reach Fifi at Box 555 Contacts Magazine.**



# GAY Activism

**G**ay activism is the effort to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination against homosexual women and men. It may be viewed as part of a broad cultural re-evaluation of the traditional male and female roles that has been fostered by the women's movement and by human potential and self-help groups, which stress individual self-realisation rather than conformity to socially imposed patterns.

The impetus for gay activism came from social movement of the 1950s and '60s that demanded full individual and human rights for members of racial, religious, and ethnic minorities, and from the insistence by members of these groups on the right to cultural diversity and self-determination.

It coincided with world-wide concern about overpopulation and with the so-called sexual revolution, which together challenged the procreative model of human sexuality. Gay activists, however, have emphasised human rights and dignities more than sexual freedom.

Homosexual rights organisations flourished in Germany and England from the 1860s through the 1920s, and in the 1950s several major homophile groups were established in the United States, Great Britain, and the Netherlands. The use of the term gay activism in the early 1970s was sparked by the so-called Stonewall Riots of June 1969, in which groups of gay men and women for the first time resisted police harassment outside a homosexual bar in New York City. Between 1970 and 1972 the number of gay groups in the United States grew from fewer than 20 to about 1,200, and similar groups emerged in Western Europe, Latin America, Canada, Australia, and Japan.

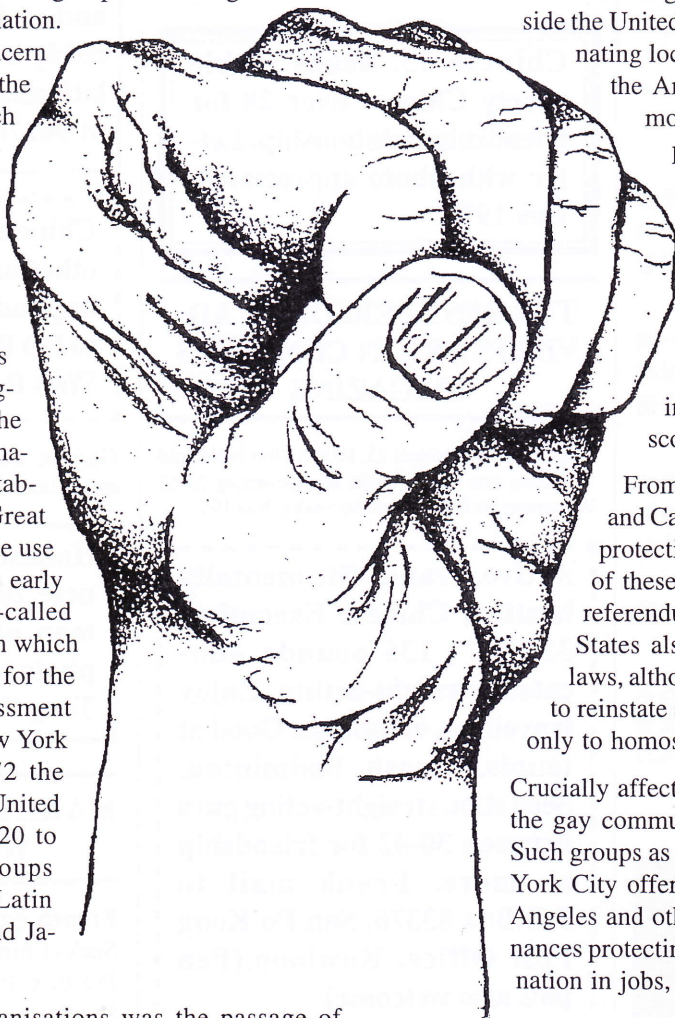
The primary aim of U.S. organisations was the passage of

civil-rights laws such as those forbidding discrimination on the basis of race, religion, ethnic origin, and sex. They also worked for the repeal of all laws criminalizing any form of sexual behaviour between consenting adults in private. Gay activists outside the United States focused principally on eliminating local discriminatory practices. In 1973

the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of psychiatric disorders, an action that significantly aided gay activists in their lobby for civil rights. By the late 1970s gay caucuses had formed within the major religious denominations and professional groups, and scores of gay political and legal organisations had come into being, some of them national in scope.

From 1972 to 1978, more than 40 U.S. and Canadian legislatures voted civil-rights protection for homosexuals, although some of these laws were later repealed by public referendum. More than 20 states in the United States also repealed their so-called sodomy laws, although in some states efforts were made to reinstate such laws and make them applicable only to homosexual relationships.

Crucially affected by the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, the gay community responded in numerous ways. Such groups as the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City offered support and information. In Los Angeles and other cities, city councils passed ordinances protecting persons with AIDS from discrimination in jobs, housing, or health care.





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Adverts for inclusion in the next issue should reach us by 3rd December. Fill in the form on page 29 or fax us on (852)2817-9120.

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Chinese, below 25. Seek muscular young guys for friendship, photo appreciated. Address: P.O.Box 547, Tsuen Wan Post Office, N.T.

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**German, 47, 176cms, 77kgs,** friendly and honest. Would like to hear from younger (-30). Sincere and cute Orientals for correspondence and maybe more, I'm a frequent traveller to Asian countries. Please write to: **Boxholder, P.O.Box 210402, 80674 Munchen, Germany.**

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Social Activities

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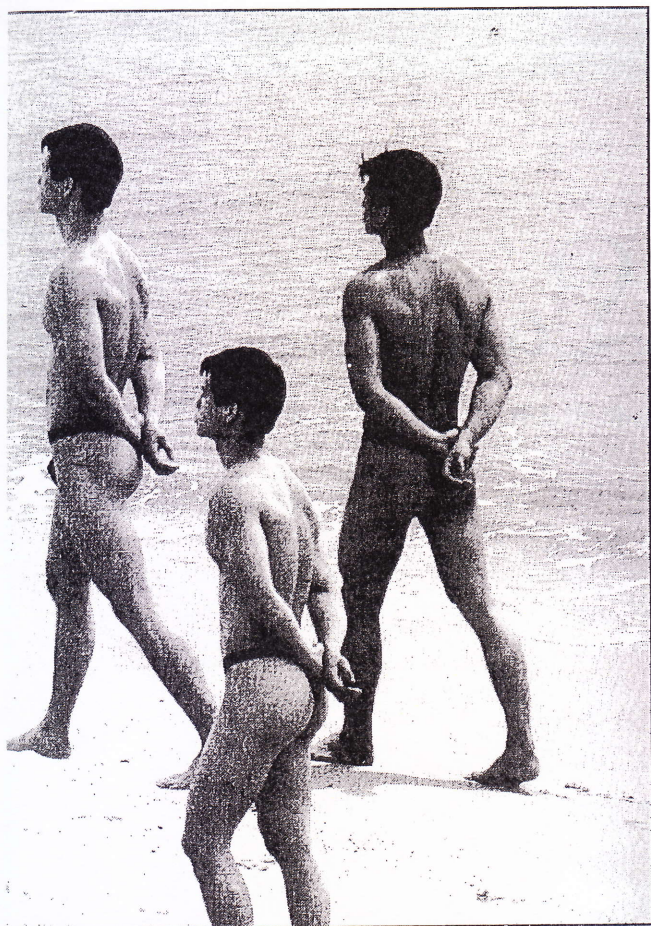
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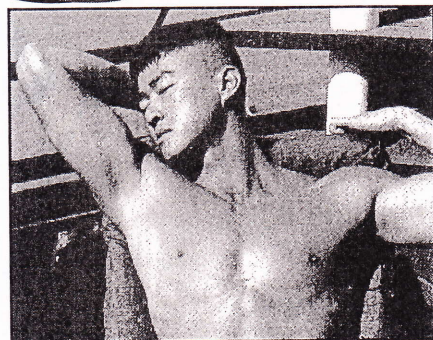
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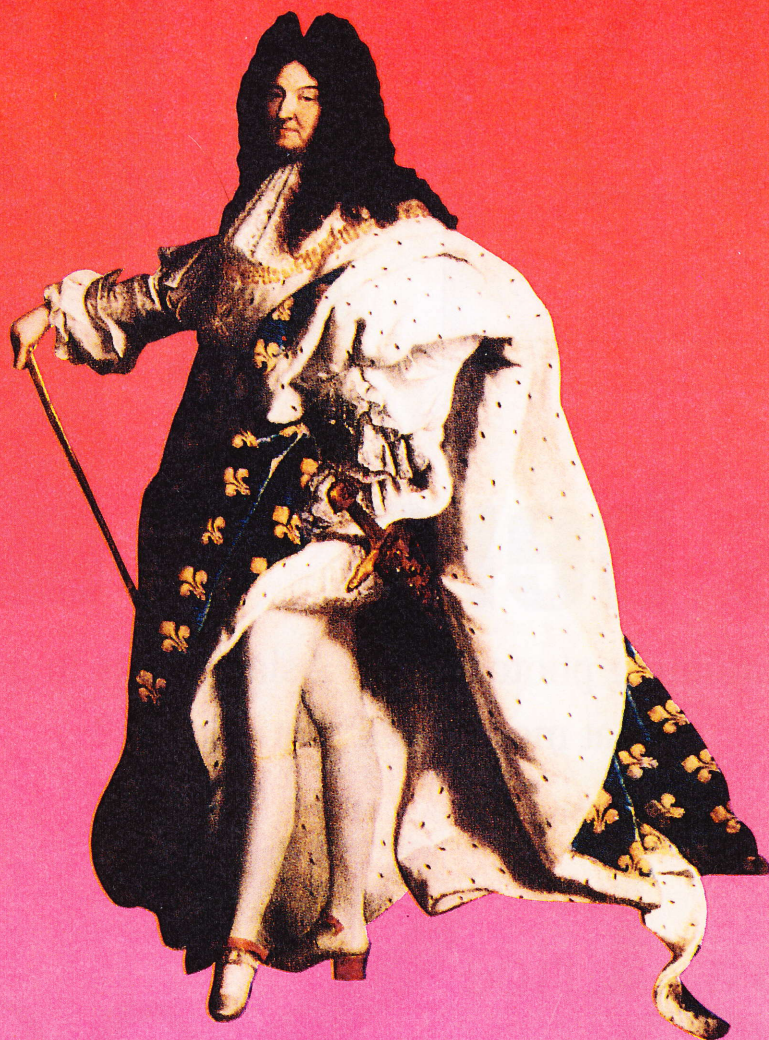
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